

CLAIMS

5. 33
1. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:
providing a first computer system;
5 providing a second computer system which operates
independently of the first computer system, but which can
exchange E-mail with the first computer system;
activating a desired program on the second computer
system by sending a first E-mail message from the first
10 computer system to the second computer system;
generating a status report from the desired program,
the status report comprising a desired summary of operating
conditions which affect the performance of the second
computer system; and
15 returning the status report to the first computer
system by a second E-mail message.
2. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 1
further comprising:
20 automatically evaluating the second E-mail message
based on predetermined status conditions; and
notifying an attendant of error conditions by a remote
paging device based on the results of the evaluation.

3. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:
providing a monitor computer system;
providing a remote computer system linked to the
monitoring computer;

5 sending a network verification command from the monitor
computer system to the remote computer system;
 responding with a network verification code from the
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;
 sending an E-mail test message from the monitor
10 computer system to the remote computer system;
 replying with an E-mail verification message from the
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;
 sending an E-mail status request message from the
monitor computer system to the remote computer system;
15 locally analyzing the operation of the remote computer
system;
 generating a status message by the remote computer
system, the status message comprising at least a summary of
the analysis of the operation of the remote computer;
20 replying with an E-mail status message from the remote
computer system to the monitor computer system;
 receiving the E-mail status message by the monitor
computer system; and
 comparing the contents of the E-mail status message
25 with a predetermined list of desired conditions at the
remote computer system.

4. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3
further comprising:

30 evaluating the significance of discrepancies found
during the step of comparing the contents of the E-mail
status message; and
 performing a predetermined task based on the results of
the evaluation.

35

5. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically activating a remote paging device to signal an operator.

5 6. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically initiating a predetermined sequence of tasks on the remote computer system.

10 7. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 4 wherein the predetermined task comprises automatically alerting a predetermined list of people.

15 8. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3 wherein the monitor computer system and the remote computer system utilize different hardware and different operating system software for their operation.

20 9. The method for remote system monitoring of claim 3 wherein the predetermined list of desired conditions comprises a list of processes to be monitored and system resource utilization.

10. A method for remote system monitoring, comprising:
providing a monitor computer system;
providing a remote computer system linked to the
monitoring computer, wherein the monitor computer system and
5 the remote computer system comprise heterogeneous systems;
sending a network verification command from the monitor
computer system to the remote computer system;
responding with a network verification code from the
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;
10 sending an E-mail test message from the monitor
computer system to the remote computer system;
replying with an E-mail verification message from the
remote computer system to the monitor computer system;
sending an E-mail status request message from the
15 monitor computer system to the remote computer system;
locally analyzing the operation of the remote computer
system;
generating a status message by the remote computer
system, the status message comprising at least a summary of
20 the analysis of the operation of the remote computer;
replying with an E-mail status message from the remote
computer system to the monitor computer system;
receiving the E-mail status message by the monitor
computer system;
25 comparing the contents of the E-mail status message
with a list of processes to be monitored and current system
resource utilization at the remote computer system;
evaluating the significance of discrepancies found
during the step of comparing the contents of the E-mail
30 status message; and
automatically activating a remote paging device to
signal an operator based on the results of the evaluation.